(c) if so, the findings thereof and if not, whether Government propose to conduct thorough survey in this regard; and

(d) the steps Government have taken to end discrimination against women workers in respect of wages and other amenities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (d) Women workers in construction projects come under the unorganized sector and their wages are paid as per provision of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948. The Act does not make any distinction on the basis of sex.

The Equal Remuneration Act, 1976 which extends to the whole of India, provides for equal remuneration to women for the same work or work of a similar nature. Government is not aware of discrimination in wages on gender basis.

Sample Surveys have been conducted in various industries including the Building and Construction Industry. Separate analysis of wages in the Public Sector has not been done under any of the sample Surveys. However, the statistics collected under these Surveys do not reveal any case of violation of the Equal Remuneration Act, 1976 in the sample units/establishments covered so far.

To safeguard the interest of these workers, the Government has enacted the Building and Other Construcation Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996 and Building and Other Workers Welfare Cess Act, 1996. The Acts provide for regulation of their employment and to ensure safety to the workers. The Act also provides for setting up of construction Workers Welfare Board by the State Governments to provide certain welfare and social security measures for the construction workers including female construction workers. These include assistance in case of accidents, pension at the age of 60 year, premia for Group Insurance Scheme, health care, education to the children and maternity benefits to the female beneficiaries etc. The State Governments have been requested to constitute Boards and implement the Act for the benefit of the construction workers.

Wage fixation in electronic news media

5351. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to constitute a commission for fixation of wages in electronic news media;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The employees of All India Radio and Doordarshan, including those in the News Wing, are in regular pay scales, which were revise w.e.f 01.01.1996 on the recommendations of the Fifth Central Pay Commission. It is too early to consider any further revision.

Labour Productivity

†5352. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have ascertained the possibilities of increasing productivity in workers category in the country;

(b) if so, to what extent the existing productivity is estimated to be further increased;

(c) whether Government have also formulated any scheme for increasing the productivity; and

(d) if so,the broad outlines thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (d) the planning process in India has aimed at creating conditions for improvement in labour productivity through provision of training, upgradation of skills and improvement in tool-kits, equipments and production techniques. As improvement in the quality of employment in terms of income and productivity has been one of the focus areas of the recent plan, the approach to employment in Tenth Plan has also emphasised the need to increase the levels of productivity of workers in order to bring about an improvement in quality of existing employment. It is necessary not only to ensure that all adult persons looking for work are

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.